

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 14 are amended, and new claim 15 is added. Support for claim 15 is found, for example, in Fig. 2 and its disclosure. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks below.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sakakibara (U.S. Patent No. 4,679,129); rejects claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakakibara; rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakakibara in view of Jacobson (U.S. Patent No. 5,151,852); rejects claims 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakakibara; and rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakakibara. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, Sakakibara does not disclose or suggest at least the first and second parallel resonance circuits being coupled to a DC power supply provided in common thereto, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 10 and 14.

Sakakibara, in Fig. 8, discloses two parallel resonant circuits 23a, 23b and a single series resonant circuit 26, and two transistors 11 and 18. As shown in Fig. 8, Sakakibara uses two separate DC power supplies 12 and 19. The DC power supply 12 is connected between the parallel resonant circuit 23a and the series resonant circuit 26, and the DC power supply 19 is connected between the parallel resonant circuit 23b and the series resonant circuit 26. Sakakibara, however, does not disclose or suggest the first and second parallel resonance circuits being coupled to a DC power supply provided in common thereto.

Jacobson does not compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of Sakakibara. Jacobson, in Fig. 3, discloses a two-stage power supply 12 where an output of the power

supply is provided at a node between the capacitors C3 and the inductor L5 of a series resonant circuit 20.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 10 and 14 define patentable subject matter.

Claims 2-9 and 11-13 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

Furthermore, newly added independent claim 15 recites that the first and second switching elements are alternatively turned on and off in accordance with control signals externally supplied in order to alternately connect the first and second ends to a reference potential defined in common to the first and second parallel resonance circuits.

Nowhere does Sakakibara disclose or suggest this feature. Specifically, as shown in Fig. 8 of Sakakibara, one end of the series resonant circuit 26 is fixedly connected to the cathode of the DC power supply 12 and the anode of the DC power supply 19. The other end of the series resonant circuit 26 is connected to the emitter of the transistor 11 and the collector of the transistor 18. The transistor 11 merely connects the series resonant circuit 26 and the parallel resonant circuit 23a in series, and the transistor 18 merely connects the series resonant circuit 26 and the parallel resonant circuit 23b in series. Thus, the transistors 11 and 18 do not function to alternatively connect the two ends (nodes) of a series resonant circuit 26 to a reference potential.

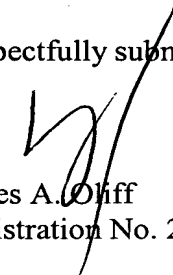
Therefore, independent claim 15 defines patentable subject matter.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Yong S. Choi
Registration No. 43,324

JAO:YSC/djb

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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